

Torrance, California  
October 8, 1940

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday evening, October 8, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a regular meeting held September 24, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Torrance Coordinating Council, signed by Thomas R. Marshall, requesting the Council to give consideration to a Boy's Club proposal, the proposal, it was stated, being submitted under separate cover.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be requested to give a written opinion regarding this project.

Councilman Murray inquired what kind of opinion is desired, and pointed out that he had not had sufficient time to study the proposal. Councilman Powell stated he had not had an opportunity to study it either. Councilman Murray asked Clerk Bartlett how long the proposals had been in the office, the answer being "shortly before five o'clock".

Councilmen Murray and Powell asked for a little time to study the matter before taking any action, at which time Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion.

A communication was read from the Torrance Ministerial Association, requesting the Council to further consider the problem of health conditions at Pueblo.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to notify the Torrance Ministerial Association and the property owners of Pueblo that the City Council will meet with them October 15, 1940 at 7:30 P.M. for discussion of the matter.

A communication was read from the City Clerk of Manhattan Beach, requesting information pertaining to the business license ordinance of the City of Torrance which might be helpful to the City of Manhattan Beach in revising its business license ordinance.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to furnish the desired information and to also refer the City of Manhattan Beach to the League of California Cities for any additional information desired.

A communication was read from the Torrance Evening High School, announcing the Torrance Adult Evening School being held in the High School Building, and enclosing a schedule of classes for both Torrance and Gardena Evening Schools.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors regarding the City's request of June 15, 1940 for transfer of certain county-owned property at Carson Street and Plaza Del Amo for park purposes, and requesting whether the City of Torrance, in the event the request is met, would agree to (1) erect a fence between the property ceded and the Health Center property and (2)

make certain roadway improvements.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to communicate with the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, requesting the County to pay one-half the cost for construction of the fence, and also to notify the Board of Supervisors that the City of Torrance will make the roadway improvements as requested.

Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, requesting passage of an ordinance requiring registry of all types of firearms with the Chief of Police of the City of Torrance and establishing a penalty for failure of any resident of the City to so register and obtain from the Chief of Police a permit to retain such firearm.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Ordinance Committee for action. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John I. Friede, requesting pavement repairs adjacent to his property at 1874 218th Street.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1404

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENT  
COVERING LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTEDNESS OF  
1915 ACT DISTRICTS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1404 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain gave a detailed report on the Vista Highlands Sewer Project, reporting the project 54% completed October 1, 1940. He added that he had submitted an itemized statement to the County of Los Angeles for the amount expended for engineering by the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$80.00 be made for repairs to the Torrance fire department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that \$25.00 per month automobile expense be authorized for three months, beginning October 1, 1940, for O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief of Police Stroh and City Clerk Bartlett be authorized to attend the Peace Officers' Association meeting at Fresno, California, October 17, 18 and 19, 1940, expenses paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell stated his attention had been called to a large accumulation of sand at 190th Street and Prairie Avenue and requested that it be removed. Referred to the Street Department.

Councilman Murray asked Councilman Babcock to state specifically the nature of the opinion he wanted Attorney McCall to render in connection with the proposal submitted by the Torrance Coordinating Council for a project to be known as a Boys' Club. Councilman Murray voiced approval of the plan "if it is a legitimate enterprise."

Upon Councilman Babcock's explanation that he wished a ruling from the Attorney as to whether or not the City can legally appropriate funds for construction of a building for a Boys' Club, Councilman Murray requested him to re-state his original motion.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to give a written opinion to the Council at the next regular meeting as to whether or not the City Council can legally appropriate funds for construction of a building for the proposed project known as a Boy's Club.

Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$92.77 be made for alley repairs in Walteria. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the automobile fleet insurance be renewed with Howard G. Locke (Travelers Insurance Company) for the period October 13, 1940 to October 13, 1941. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the transfer of \$50,000.00 from Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 funds to City of Torrance general fund be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$17.00 be made to reimburse Water Manager Stanger, being expenses for attendance of Mr. Stanger at the Water Treatment School at Sacramento, California. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$123.60 be made for 12 5/8" x 3/4" water meters for the Water Co. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the rental of one Sullivan Air Compressor at the rate of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month be authorized for the Water Co. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$230.90 be made for materials for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire stated that, at the Planning Commission meeting held October 7, 1940, Engineer Jain had called attention to the fact that no printed copies of the new zoning ordinance, No. 316, had been made. Mayor McGuire advised that the Torrance Herald had offered to print 1,000 copies of the ordinance for \$75.00. He said it had been suggested that copies of same be made available for 15¢ each, a nominal sum he said, to ask of anyone interested in using the zoning ordinance.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made to have the Torrance Herald print 1,000 copies of zoning Ordinance No. 316, copies of same to be sold for 15¢ each. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Haines of the Associated Assessment Engineers presented and read in full:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1405

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 3897d AND SECTION 3897.3 OF THE POLITICAL CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE PURSUANT TO AFORESAID SECTIONS OF SAID POLITICAL CODE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1405 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Haines presented the Application of the City of Torrance to the County of Los Angeles and its Officials and to the state controller for the purchase of tax deeds pursuant to the provisions of Section 3897d and Section 3897.3 of the Political Code of the State of California, said application to be executed by the Mayor in accordance with Section 2 of Resolution No. 1405.

Councilman Hitchcock explained that the parcels of the land referred to in the above resolution and application are located near the Fern Street grammar school and that the City proposes to develop the land as a Park and Playground area, the land in its present condition being unsightly due to existence of abandoned oil sumps and dumping of rubbish.

Councilman Murray asked City Electrician Butterfield about the two lights ordered to be installed at the Municipal Park playground. Mr. Butterfield advised the lights had been received today and will be installed tomorrow (October 9, 1940).

Mr. Pruitt brought up some question regarding title of the parcels of land referred to in the above resolution and application, advising that some law had recently been enacted requiring clear title to all property before transfers are made. Mr. Haines pointed out that this applied to property transactions where a re-sale might be contemplated.

Mr. Haines advised against a counter offer by the City to the County of Los Angeles in connection with the City's application for purchase of 106 parcels of land, stating that the County is revising its method of property appraisals, allowing local realtors in the various cities to make said appraisals.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:25 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

G. H. Bantick  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

Tom F. McGuire  
Mayor of the City of Torrance